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Inquiry reportedly launched into secret Army probe

NSC said to have requested study

WASHINGTON (AP) — At White House request, the Justice Department is investigating the source of news reports on a financial investigation of secret Army units that often work with the CIA, two government sources said yesterday.

One source said the initial request for a leak investigation had

come from officials of the National Security Council at the White House.

Both sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the grand jury investigation was being conducted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Theodore Greenberg in suburban Alexandria, Va. The Pentagon and a special Justice Department office that is studying Defense Department finances are nearby.

Mr. Greenberg was out of his office yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Both sources said the investigation was triggered by a *Washington Post* article late last month on the Army's financial investigation of several of its special operations and intelligence units, including an aviation unit known as Seaspray that operates out of Fort Eustis, Va.

The *Post* and *Newsweek* magazine both reported, however, that the leak investigation also included an earlier report on the Army units by CBS News. On Nov. 22, CBS-TV broadcast a report about the activi-

ties of the aviation unit, which often works with the CIA on covert operations.

In the past, leak investigations have almost never led to prosecution and rarely to administrative discipline. Often, this was because so many officials knew the information that it was impossible to trace the leak to its source. Even when that was possible, the agency whose secrets were involved was often unwilling to have them publicly confirmed at a trial.

Nevertheless, the government for the first time recently used the Espionage Act to convict a government employee of supplying classified material to a news organization.

Samuel Loring Morison, a civilian intelligence analyst for the Navy, was sentenced last week in Baltimore to two years in prison for having given secret U.S. satellite photos of a Soviet aircraft carrier under construction to a British defense magazine for which he worked part-time.

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